UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/49/L.38
21 November 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 88 (a)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

United States of America: draft resolution

United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency

The General Assembly,

Recalling the document entitled "A New Partnership for Development: the Cartagena Commitment", adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session in which, inter alia, was launched the concept of trade efficiency and the process leading to the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 47/183 of 22 December 1992, entitled "Eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development", in which the Assembly endorsed the convening of a United Nations international symposium on trade efficiency,

Considering that the outcome of the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency is a concrete and practical contribution to the development objectives and efforts of the United Nations,

Stressing the importance of trade as a major instrument of economic growth and sustainable development for all countries, in particular developing countries and the need to find solutions to microeconomic issues of international trade which can significantly contribute to more open, dynamic and efficient trade relations,

Conscious of the significant importance information technology will have in the coming years in enhancing the competitiveness of countries and enterprises through the use of electronic trade,

Noting the valuable contribution made by various organizations from within and outside the United Nations system to the successful conclusion of the Symposium,

Reaffirming the need to give priority attention to the problems facing the least developed countries,

1. Expresses its deep gratitude to the city of Columbus, Ohio, United States of America, for hosting the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency, for the hospitality extended to the participants and for the facilities made available to the Symposium;

2. Welcomes the adoption of the Columbus Ministerial Declaration on Trade Efficiency, embodying a policy framework and a set of practical actions and recommendations for more efficient trade worldwide, which can generate substantial benefits to all countries;

3. Welcomes further the official launching of the Global Trade Point Network, which, by electronically interconnecting trade points worldwide, would allow all member countries to trade more efficiently with each other and assist those that have so far remained at the fringe of international trade to participate actively and profitably in it, in particular the least developed countries and small and medium-sized enterprises in all countries;

4. Expresses its satisfaction with the high-level participation in the Symposium, with the innovative procedures introduced for making the proceedings of the Symposium more dynamic and action-oriented, including better interaction among the governmental and non-governmental participants, and with the genuine efforts made to achieve a paperless conference, in line with the objective of trade efficiency;

5. Invites all States to take an active part in the implementation of the Columbus Ministerial Declaration on Trade Efficiency and stresses the importance of the private sector and the close cooperation between it and national and local government authorities;

6. Expresses its appreciation to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for organizing the Symposium, which recognized the importance of market forces and trade liberalization to achieve economic development, fostered increased cooperation among developed and developing countries, and encouraged an open exchange of views on practical, market-oriented solutions to real problems of economic development with all the actors on trade, both public and private;

7. Encourages UNCTAD to continue its efforts to promote the use of the global marketplace to support development and the implementation of the provisions of the Columbus Ministerial Declaration, in particular the establishment of trade points and their integration in the Global Trade Point Network, with the cooperation of the private sector and, as appropriate, the United Nations Development Programme, international financial institutions, and donor Governments;

8. Stresses the importance of an integrated effort within the United Nations system in the implementation of the concept of trade efficiency, and requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue its close cooperation with relevant bodies and organizations so as to take full benefit of the synergies existing among them;

9. Notes the interest of the Trade and Development Board in considering follow-up action to the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency, and expresses its interest in being apprised of developments in this respect in the context of its consideration of the item "Trade and development".